

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 MCE-00 ACDA-07 /073 W  
-----020541 031450Z /47

R 302215Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WAASHDC 8920  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4574

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS CS  
SUBJ: FSLN SUSPECTS FREED

REF: SAN JOSE 4479

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. A COSTA RICAN JUDGE SEPT 29 ORDERED THAT FSLN MEMBERS WHO WERE ARRESTED WITH A CACHE OF ARMS SIX DAYS AGO (REF) BE FREED. JUDGE RULED THAT CHARGES AGAINST TRIO, WHICH INCLUDES SON OF COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF MANUEL MORA, BE DROPPED BECAUSE THEY DO NOT COMPRISE "HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST A FRIENDLY NATION" AS ALLEGED BY GOCR PUBLIC SECURITY OFFICIALS. MOST THEY COULD BE HELD FOR, JUDGE RULED, IS ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS. JUDGE ALSO RULED THAT IF HE IS PRESENTED PROOF THAT GROUP WAS ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN HOSTILE ACTS, HE WOULD ORDER THEIR RE-ARREST.

2. MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY MARIO CHARPENTIER TOLD PRESS SEPT 29 THAT JUDGE'S RELEASE ORDER IS PROOF THAT NOBODY IS PERSECUTED IN COSTA RICA, AND THAT RULE OF LAW PREVAILS. CHARPENTIER ALSO SAID  
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THAT AUTHORITIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT RE ACTIVITIES AIMED AT SUBVERTING OTHER COUNTRIES. HE NOTED AS WELL THAT FOREIGNERS WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES PERSECUTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS CAN LIVE IN PEACE IN COSTA RICA "BUT THEY WILL HAVE TO OBEY CR LAWS".

3. DURING WEEK OF SEPT 25 LOCAL MEDIA HAVE DWELT ON VARIETY AND AMOUNTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION THE FSLN MEMBERS HAD, AND HAVE

REPORTED ON THE UNCOVERING OF MAPS OF NICARAGUAN CITIES, SUPPLY ROUTE PLANS, NAMES OF GON FIGURES AND OTHER INFORMATION THAT POINTED TO PROJECTED TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN NICARAGUA BY THE GROUP. ALSO, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT A PROMINENT NICARAGUAN FSLN LEADER NAMED ORTEGA (AND WIFE) WERE JUST MISSED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ORIGINAL RAID, WHICH, IT NOW APPEARS, OCCURRED IN HOUSE IN CURRIDIBAT SECTION OF SAN JOSE, AND NOT IN CIUDAD QUESADA AS ORIGINALLY REPORTED (REFTEL). END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: WE ARE UNSURPRISED THAT THE FSLN SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS IN THEIR DEFENSE APPEAR SOUND AND WELL BASED ON HABEAS CORPUS. AT SAME TIME THERE ARE NUMBER OF REASONS WHY GOCR WOULD WELCOME THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND WISH TO DOWNPLAY THE INCIDENT. ONE IS TO AVOID POSSIBLE SANDINISTA INSPIRED RETALIATORY TERRORIST ACTIVITY WITHIN COSTA RICA. ANOTHER IS NOT TO ROCK THE BOAT WITH LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS.(THE PERSONAL TIE-IN OF MANUEL MORA'S SON HAS GIVEN THIS INCIDENT A PECULIAR TWIST.) YET ANOTHER IS THAT THE GOCR HAS WHOWN THAT IT KNOWS WHAT THE FSLN AND THEIR COMMUNIST PARTY FRIENDS MAY BE UP TO, AND FAIR WARNING HAS BEEN GIVEN. THE MESSAGE TO THE LOCAL FSLN (AND THE PARTY) IS TO GET BACK INTO LINE. END CONFIDENTIAL.  
WEISSMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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